

Crash at a Crossing.

A Hocking Valley Passenger Dashes Into a Scioto Valley Freight at the Junction

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At the rate of thirty miles an hour a passenger train consisting of a locomotive, baggage car and three coaches shot through a heavily – loaded freight train, and strange to say, no fatality is to be recorded.

At the junction of the Hocking and Scioto valley [Valley Crossing], nine miles south of Columbus a frightful wreck is recorded, but fortunately no loss of life.

At 6 o'clock the passenger train going south on the C.H.V. & T. [Columbus Hocking Valley & Toledo] left the Union depot. Three cars, containing one hundred and fifty passengers, were drawn by engine No. 5, in charge of Engineer Waterman. As the approach was made to the crossing, for some reason, the air brake refused to act and the train passed through a freight which was backing on the crossing of the Scioto Valley, and the baggage car was lifted up and crossed the track while the coaches were jammed together without being thrown from the track. The freight was drawn by the locomotives, the second of which was separated from the tender and tossed to one side like a chip. The engineer Chas. Bothwell was carried with the wreck and piled on the debris. The baggage car was thrown against the station and demolished an adjacent switch target.

The usual excitement attending such scenes followed and all attention was first directed to the coaches. Slight injuries to a few passengers calmed the tears and efforts extended to the imprisoned engineer of the freight locomotive. He was pinioned in the cab and the windows had to be smashed to rescue him. When taken out of the wreck he was conscious and was removed to the station.

Two bleeding forms extended on the rear platform of the baggage car with the appearance of tramps, when taken before a fire revived and gave evidence of only slight injuries. Two passengers, Mr. Robert McEwen of East Rich street Columbus, and Miss Ethel Cheney of Canal Winchester were badly but not seriously hurt. The Scioto Valley sent a special engine with physicians to the wreck and brought the injured engineer to Columbus. The Hocking Valley wreck train with Superintendent Rockwell and Hoover were on the scene in an early hour. Relief was furnished the injured passengers who were removed to the station. The wreck was cleared on the Scioto Valley sufficient to let trains pass by 9 o'clock, but it was almost 12 before the Hocking Valley passenger train could proceed.